

they might best be counteracted by a policy of liberal reciprocity. In case any nation should refuse to enter into this policy he proposes various methods of retaliation for discriminatory restrictions. Throughout the paper he loses no opportunity of emphasizing Great Britain's rigorous attitude towards commerce in contrast with the fair and equal principles of trade proposed by France. This paper contained the germs of subsequent party discussion and divisions on the tariff.

To Jefferson and his contemporaries foreign relations were of superlative importance. And this is not strange. The young nation was just taking its place among hostile, or, at best, indifferent rivals. The diplomatic problems and issues of that day even those which seemed most difficult and threatening—have passed completely away and left but little trace on our present national life. But the student of Jefferson's political activities must attempt at least to give them that prominence which they held in his mind. They were the more intense for being narrowed down to three countries alone—Spain, England and France.

Jefferson's business with Spain took the form of instructions to our Commissioners at Madrid. These discussed the trouble with the Indian tribes on the southern frontier, due largely to Spanish instigation, and the disputes over the boundary and commerce. From this period dates the beginning of the agitation for the free navigation of the Mississippi. All these subjects were destined later to figure extensively in the negotiations connected with the Louisiana purchase.

Since the ratification of the Treaty of Peace, England's attitude towards her former colonies had been uniformly indifferent even contemptuous. Her unwillingness to show a conciliatory spirit on any point at issue became more and more marked until, in November, 1790, certain representations from El Morris, our agent in England, rendered it, in Jefferson's opinion "dishonorable to the United States, useless and even injurious to renew the proposition for a treaty of commerce, or for

\*See England, page 202.